

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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BROCKTON, MA – Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz today expressed confidence in the prosecutors in his office and reaffirmed his strong commitment for equal justice for all people.

“I am proud of my office, and I remain committed to ensuring that all people involved in court cases whether they are defendants, victims or witnesses will be treated fairly and equally, regardless of their race” Cruz said. This office has a long and proud history of fighting for victims, particularly those who don’t always have a voice in our community. We will continue to do so.”

“My prosecutors met their ethical obligations by disclosing a number of potentially exculpatory, offensive emails sent by a former Assistant District Attorney when she was identified as a witness in the middle of a trial in January. The emails and images were disclosed to the court for an in camera review, which the court then ordered to be made available to the defense and the public, and they speak for themselves.”

During a hearing last Monday, Judge Cornelius Moriarty stated that he had not observed any racial bias in the prosecution of cases by the Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office during his time sitting in Plymouth County. The District Attorney’s Office recently secured convictions after appellate argument before the Supreme Judicial Court in Commonwealth v. Amanda Kelly, a decision which created new law on hate crimes that will benefit all victims in Massachusetts.

“I respect and share the concerns of the community relating to the emails. They go against everything my office fights for every day. But to be very clear, no one who sent those emails still works at this office. Upon learning of these emails, my office began an internal review. For the sake of transparency and accountability, I will be meeting next week with Kevin Burke, former Secretary of Public Safety under Governor Deval Patrick and former Essex County District Attorney, to initiate a thorough and transparent investigation into the issues that have been raised by the discovery of these emails.”

No further comment will be made at this time.

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